

# THE OBSERVER



SEPTEMBER 16, 1999

VOLUME 64

ISSUE 1

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE RENSSELAER, INDIANA

## Editor's Notes

-Friday, Sept. 17:

Big Screen Movie The Matrix at 7 PM in the Auditorium

-Tuesday, Sept. 21:

Lip Sync Competition in the Ballroom

-Saturday, Sept.

24: Ferris Bueller Day in Chicago

-Sept. 27-29: Ac-

creditation of NCATE Team

-Friday, Oct. 1:

Peer Ministry Camping Retreat

-Wednesday, Oct.

6: Tom Bresandola

-Friday, Oct. 8:

KAIROS XXVII registration payments due

## ANNUAL CONVOCATION REINFORCES "ACADEMIC CULTURE"

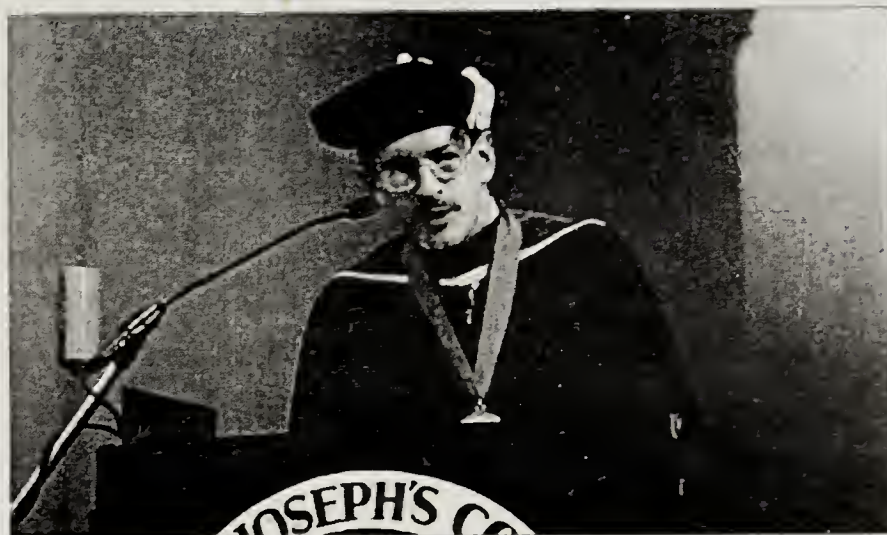
by Lisa Phillips

We are undertaking a "united endeavor of learning and faith" said Albert Shannon, president of the college, at the second annual Academic Convocation which took place in the chapel on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

"Our actions - positive and negative - have an effect," David Chattin, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, emphasized, saying that he has begun performing acts of "gorilla gratitude," or random acts of gratitude, and encourages everyone to do the same.

One of the highlights of the convocation was David Chattin's appointment as Provost of the College. As Provost, Chattin will stand in for the president when the need arises.

The convocation, said Chattin,



courtesy of the Academic Affairs Office

DR. DAVID CHATTIN speaks at the second annual Academic Convocation.

represents the academic aspect of Saint Joseph's College, helping to create an "academic culture."

Chattin is also the one who instigated the convocation last year. "It is, and is supposed to be, highly symbolic," said Chattin. "It reminds everyone - hey, we're about academics here."

The convocation is also a chance for Shannon to give a "state of the college address" explained

Chattin.

Speakers at the convocation included Philip J. Wilhelm, chairman of the board, Shannon, Marge McIlwain, dean of freshmen, Jill Hrobsky, student association president, and Chattin, with invocation by Rev. James Challancin, chaplain, and benediction and community blessing by Brother Timothy Hemm, C.P.P.S.

## ROCKIN' INTO THE MILLENNIUM

by Cristin Marshall

New faces and many changes: that's what you will find walking around WPUM this year. 90.5 WPUM Puma Rock is St. Joseph's College campus radio station that is also popular in Rensselaer area, and this year the station has plans to make this year successful for everyone involved.

Sally Nesselrode is the Faculty Director in charge of Puma Rock, with Program Director Denise Rybicki and Marley Miller as the Music Director working closely at her side. Derek Dabrowiak is the Sales Director, and Michael Eckhardt as his assistant.

Some new staff members include Cristin Marshall in charge of Sports and Sarah Stipher as News Director. Last but not least is Michael Lovely in charge of Promotions.

One of the station's biggest accomplishments at the end of last year was the purchase of a satellite. The satellite lets the station air 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, making it possible for people to listen to Puma Rock long after the live DJ's have left for the evening.

For the future, WPUM is eager to get a wattage upgrade up to 1,000 watts, as opposed to the ten watts used today.

## ATTENTION!

The decision has been made by the Computer Science Dept., in conjunction with the committee on the Use of Technology in Academic Programs (CUTAP), to limit student access to the Core 108 computer lab on Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. During these times the lab will be available for use by only those students who are enrolled in a Computer Science course.

This policy will take effect beginning September 21st. Comments may be sent to cutap@saintjoe.edu

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE!

NEWS.....163

Freshmen acquaint themselves with SJC....

OPINION.....2

Day student speaks out against limited parking....

FEATURES.....465

Meet the New Faculty...

SPORTS.....667

Volleyball Game a Success....

STUFF.....8

At the Movies with Don....



# Letters To The Editor

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**Letters to the Editor:** Letters to the Editor are not only accepted but greatly encouraged. The opinion page is a forum for student issues and should have student opinions. Letters may be sent to Maura Giles, Lisa Phillips, or placed in the Observer mailboxes, located on 2nd floor Core or 3rd floor Halleck Center. Letters should be between 350 and 500 words. *The Observer* reserves the right to edit length.

Pseudonyms are accepted but discouraged. Regardless, all submissions should be signed and include a valid telephone number.

*The Observer* also reserves the right not to print letters found to violate applicable policies.

Dear Editor,

A beautiful Tuesday, after our Labor Day break, I arrived at my office disturbed to see that someone had destroyed a young maple that was planted by an alumnus in memory of her son who was killed in an auto accident. The young tree would have been a beautiful addition to Halleck Center and it disturbed and saddened me to think that an individual had consciously destroyed such a beautiful addition to campus.

My purpose in writing is to educate the community as to the recent plantings on the campus. The administration, not only in student affairs but also in other divisions of the institution, has attempted to provide leadership to friends of the college relative

to reforesting/replanting our trees. There are numerous trees that have been donated in memory of loved ones.

I would ask that our students take a moment to consider that a tree planted on the campus will not only give the current student population some beauty and enrich the surroundings, but it will provide future generations of college students with much joy.

A professional landscaper will replace the maple. A special student fund will be used for that purpose.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to address an issue of concern to Saint Joseph's College.

William R. Manis  
Vice President for Student Affairs

Dear Editor,

The day students are having trouble finding places to park and some have to make their own in the grass or at the ends of other rows. I think it might be a good thing to consider a parking lot just for day students.

Amy VanScheper

*All students and faculty . . .  
What do you think? Should  
day students have their own  
parking lot?*

*Send your opinions via  
email, to  
mge2614@saintjoe.edu.*

## What Do You Think?

### Alcohol on Campus

Does security have the right to look in students' cups? Is it a violation of students' rights, or for their own safety? Is the alcohol policy too strict, or not strict enough?



### The Observer has a New Look

What do you think about the new look of *The Observer*? Do you like it? Do you like it better than the previous volumes? What should be changed? What shouldn't be changed?

### Computer Lab Limits Hours

Beginning September 21st, the Core computer lab will be closed on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. The lab will be open at these times only for students who are enrolled in a Computer Science course. Do you think this is unreasonable? Do you think it is about time they did this?

### Problems parking in Sparling

Have you ever noticed the disorganized parking in the Sparling parking lot? Do you think the problem is with the people parking there, the fact that the spaces are not visible enough, or another reason?

### People in the Pews

Do you sit in the first five pews at Mass? Why or why not? Why does it seem like no one sits close to the altar even when the last pews are roped off? Does it bother you that so many people sit in the back?

If you have an opinion you would like to express in *The Observer* about these topics, or any topic, send it via e-mail to Maura Giles, Opinion Editor (mge2614@saintjoe.edu). Your opinions may be submitted at any time throughout the school year, and are always encouraged.



## CAMPUS LIFE UPDATE: CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS ON SJC'S DORMS

—by Bree Ma'Ayteh—

So far, the St. Joe fall semester has only been in session for a month, and already there have been some significant changes, especially in the areas concerning dorm life.

One of the biggest shocks for students returning to the campus this year was the realization that they couldn't be as "free" with their alcohol as they were in the past. Both Campus Life and Security are combining forces to toughen up on the alcohol situation on campus. This year, any security officer or campus life official will enforce their right to check the contents of any student's mug as he or she is walking around on school grounds. If alcohol is found, then the student will

be written up, and further action will be taken if necessary.

Andrea Reusser, Co-Director of Campus Life, had this to say in regards to checking mugs:

"We are not changing any rules so much as just bringing things up to where they should be already." She added, "The majority of the students on this campus aren't even old enough to drink yet, anyway. That's what Core XI is for."

On a more positive note, Campus Life is giving the power to the students in deciding what quiet hours should be for each dorm. A discussion between Campus Life and the Student Association gave food for thought. "We thought that if the stu-

dents had more say in what their quiet hours were, they might be more willing to abide by them more," Reusser stated matter-of-factly.

Not only are students getting a say in what goes on in the dorms now, they are also going to be getting a new residence hall to boot. At least, the idea is in the works. "We should hopefully be breaking ground sometime in October," confirmed Reusser. When questioned about the design of the building, the co-head of Campus Life wasn't able to provide a definite answer. "I'm not for sure whether it's going to be another residence hall or an apartment complex....All we know is that it's not going to be set up like

the other residence halls. You know, with a bunch of rooms on a floor with a bathroom in the middle."

"The Master Plan" is looking to be ready for students next year, but complications such as cost could delay it being completed in time. The location of the complex is right between Justin Hall and Noll Hall.

Reusser wanted to stress that Campus Life is here to help students work through any problem that they might be having with your living arrangements, whether it concerns a roommate situation or furniture in need of repair. "Contact me and I'll work with you," she said. "That's what I'm here for. We all do what we can."

## VIRTUAL INVEST-MENTS

—by Sara Post—

There is a new SJC club on campus this semester for all of you who like to "take a gamble." Springing from senior Daniel Hushek and Dustin Dingman's interest in the stock market, the two decided to start a club for SJC students with the same interest: the SJC Investment club.

They don't deal with real money, but the club is designed to teach members the basics of investing without the pressure that comes from using your own hard earned money. \$50,000 portfolios (that's in virtual money) are set up between groups of people within the club. These groups investigated companies and businesses and together the group decides which company stocks to invest in. The stocks are bought using a site on the internet called Virtual Stock Exchange. The site, according to club president Daniel Hushek "is set up perfectly for what we want to do. It does everything for us; shows what people have bought, their gains, research on the stocks, everything." The portfolio groups will compete against each other and the group with

the highest return at the end of the semester, or year, wins.

A club portfolio (called The Puma Fund) will also be managed by the entire club in addition to the separate group portfolios. All members get to propose ideas and stocks for the fund, but only the fund managers, the more involved members of the club, vote on which stocks to invest in.

Though the club is new, its leaders hope to prove themselves wise investors in the stock market so that in the future investing with real money may become a possibility. "If we can show consistent good gains with fake money," says Hushek, "maybe we could get some donations in the future. We sort of have to prove ourselves first, so people know their money is going somewhere worthwhile."

Anyone who is interested in, or would just like to learn more about investing is more than welcome to join the club, regardless of major. To check out more about the club's activities visit their site at [www.saintjoe.edu/~invest/](http://www.saintjoe.edu/~invest/)

## OFF TO A "FRESH" START

—by Bree Ma'Ayteh—

St. Joseph's College is starting a brand new semester, and with that new start comes a new group of people: Freshmen! And what better way to introduce them to the school than with a freshmen orientation?

Starting Thursday, August 19 and ending Sunday, August 22, the new St. Joe students were introduced to the College through four days of various activities. One of the first was Play Fair, an ice-breaker session to help everyone get better acquainted with their new classmates. Other activities over the orientation included a Bonfire on Friday night, a Scavenger Hunt Saturday afternoon and a Karaoke party on Saturday night.

Don't think that the only point of this

four-day retreat was just to play games. "College is a big transition from high school, academically, socially and spiritually," commented Maura Giles, a freshmen leader. "The purpose of freshmen orientation is to help ease the freshmen into their new lifestyle."

This year, 285 people stepped onto the SJC campus with the title of freshmen. The majority of the students came from Indiana and Illinois; 194 people are from the former, with 65 claiming Illinois residency. The top five majors in the class of 2003 are Commerce (44), Biology (39), Elementary Education (31), Computer Science (21), and Communications (17).



FRESHMEN LEADER Tina Carroll at Play Fair.

photo by Lisa Phillips



## Freshman class is largest in recent years

—by Tim Hayes—

It is the biggest class to come to Saint Joseph's College since 1985. This year's freshman class has upperclassmen shaking their heads in collective amazement at the sheer number of new faces on campus. The final count: 273 new freshmen. That amounts to nearly one third of the school's entire enrollment, for those keeping track.

Some things that have helped SJC get so many freshmen to come here is the aggressive recruiting efforts of the admissions staff. St. Joseph's College has "the best admissions staff" according to Pat Paulson, Associate Director of Admissions.

"It was well organized by having students come out for Discover Days," said Admissions Representative Margaret Hajduch. Paulson added that the overall cooperation and participation of the campus community was also central to the success of the recruiting effort.

Now that the freshmen are here, several different activities and campus events have helped them become acquainted with the SJC community. Faculty and student lunches have been instrumental in helping

the freshmen become more aware of who the different professors at the college are. Activities during orientation encouraged the students to get to know one another. These activities included the ever-popular Playfair, a bonfire at Lake Banet and, of course, the annual picnic and pool party in President Skip Shannon's backyard. The event proved to be a great introduction to the school for many of this year's freshmen.

"It was tons of fun being there and actually meeting the president of the college," said freshman Darci Ramirez. "It was also very interesting to meet tons of new people, and [be] able to go and swim in the President's pool."

"It was a good gesture of Skip Shannon," added freshman Nick Masterson.



photo by Lisa Phillips

**FRESHMEN GET TO KNOW** one another at Playfair. The annual Orientation event forces students to mix and mingle with their new classmates.

## Meet the New Faculty

Each year returning students are greeted by a few new faces among the ranks of the SJC faculty. Here are a few of the names you will want to become acquainted with. (Not pictured: Richard Young, Accounting)



### Bill Mottolese

Teaching: English

Teaching Experience: 10 Years

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Chocolate

Marshmallow/Chunky Monkey

Originally From: Connecticut

Favorite thing about SJC so far: students



### Mark Steiner

Teaching: Communications/Theatre Arts

Teaching Experience: 6 1/2 years

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Vanilla

Originally From: Southern California

Favorite thing about SJC so far: The serious approach to education



### Maia Kingman

Teaching: English and Core

Teaching Experience: 3 years

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Peppermint/

Ben & Jerry's Chunky Monkey

Originally From: Rensselaer

Favorite thing about SJC so far: the closeness with students



### Linda McFarland

Teaching: Marketing/Management

Teaching Experience: 18 years

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Cherry Garcia

Originally From: Terre Haute

Favorite thing about SJC so far: the friendly campus



### Dan Rutledge

Teaching: Marketing/Management

Teaching Experience: 12 years

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: chocolate almond

Originally From: Michigan

Favorite thing about SJC so far: the friendly students

## Focus on Religion

## People, not pulpits

—by Chris Gibson—

When I returned to Saint Joe this fall, many people on the campus, in the paper staff and in the priesthood asked if I would continue the religion column this semester. But it was also suggested by some that I should try new things. I agree with both sides.

Last year I was content to ask fairly simple questions and be an impassive ear while I learned if a student believed in God, didn't believe in God, went to church or had stopped going. At the time, this was necessary. But now the column does need to expand. I will not forsake the religious element on campus, for we are a religious campus. But this semester I will attempt to demonstrate how religious thought pervades the air outside the church doors. After all, most religious thought goes on outside of the church doors anyway.

I was approached by a student about doing an article on Wicca. This would be a very interesting area to cover, but the problem is the inability to find Wiccans, and also the suspicion of many people on the campus who are neither Catholic nor Christian that revealing themselves as witches would result in persecution. Right now I have one reluctant Wiccan to interview.

Changes of the more mainstream variety are also being made on campus. A group concerned with Catholic women's issues is in its inception. There will soon be a campus Bible study on Sunday nights and Campus Ministry is finally planning a trip to Washington D.C. in January to attend the "March for Life."

Along with these issues, I hope to go back to the old questions of what people really think of the dominant religion on campus, Catholicism. Wherever you go on campus there is no shortage of people willing to speak out on many issues. Before the semester is out, I would like to cover the group of people we all seem to belong to every once in a while -- the disgruntled and outcast. I'll also cover the person who is working out personal religion for himself, the one who has forsaken religion altogether, or the faithful Catholic who may be wondering why the Church at times seems so faithless.

The aim this semester is not to softsoap the religious angle that we so often take for granted, but to make this column about religion, yes, but more a column about thought. The focus is not so much on pulpits as on people.



## Lessons from the East

by Heather Hagan

There is a depth of knowledge gained from personal experience which cannot be duplicated by reading any book. This past summer, five SJC faculty members journeyed to India in order to gain that firsthand knowledge which they could then pass on to their students.

The trip was funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment which provided for five SJC professors to spend over a month in India. Taking part in the trip were professors Susan Chattin, Peter Watkins, Jody Watkins, Piper Hodson and Fred Berger. For Chattin and Hodson, this trip was their second opportunity to visit India. All except for Berger have previously and currently do teach in the Core 7 program which focuses on India and China. Berger was approached by Chattin to attend the trip specifically for the purpose of bringing in a new faculty member to teach in Core 7 who would then be able to tie in the experience gained in India. According to those who took part in the trip, it was indeed a valuable experience that has been instrumental in the way they are currently teaching Core 7.

"I find that in class now I can elaborate more on certain points," said Peter Watkins. "I have also been able to offer my students a greater variety of topics for their research papers. Some ideas I have suggested only came to mind because of things I saw in India." Hodson added that for each day of class so far, she has had some kind of visual aide to bring in and show her students.

Beyond the practical benefits this trip offered, those who attended also found it a deeply moving spiritual experience. All claimed that they were able to learn something about themselves by interacting with the culture of others. For Hodson, the trip had a rather unusual effect. Whereas most Westerners traveling to India might experience some form of

culture shock, Hodson actually found that she could identify with the way of life of the Indian people more than most might be able to.

"India really highlights for me the ways in which my upbringing was very atypical," she said. "Some things about India are easier for me to accept because of my upbringing. For example, the first house I ever lived in had no indoor bathroom - we had an outhouse. My very rural upbringing made the poverty in India not as alien to me."

Berger stated that the trip taught him a great deal about patience and privacy. "Except for the time we spent in the actual hotel rooms, we were never alone while we were in India," he commented. "Because we were Westerners, we were constantly gawked at, followed by people and accosted by beggars."

Although the persistent begging was a rather unpleasant experience, the travelers found that most of the people they encountered in India were friendly, courteous and helpful.

"Many of the people there were very curious about our way of life," said Jody Watkins. "We met one Indian man who was a mailman. He talked with us for a little while and was just very interested in how our mail system compared to theirs." She went on to add that she was impressed by the hospitality and generosity of the people they met. "These people didn't have much, but they were willing to offer us whatever they had. Even offering us a Coke was an enormous expense for them."

In reflecting on the trip, these SJC faculty members all contend that it is the spiritual experience of India and the people they met there that they will remember the most.

"When people ask me if I 'enjoyed' my trip to India, I can't really tell them that I did," said Berger. "But it was a valuable experience in so many ways."

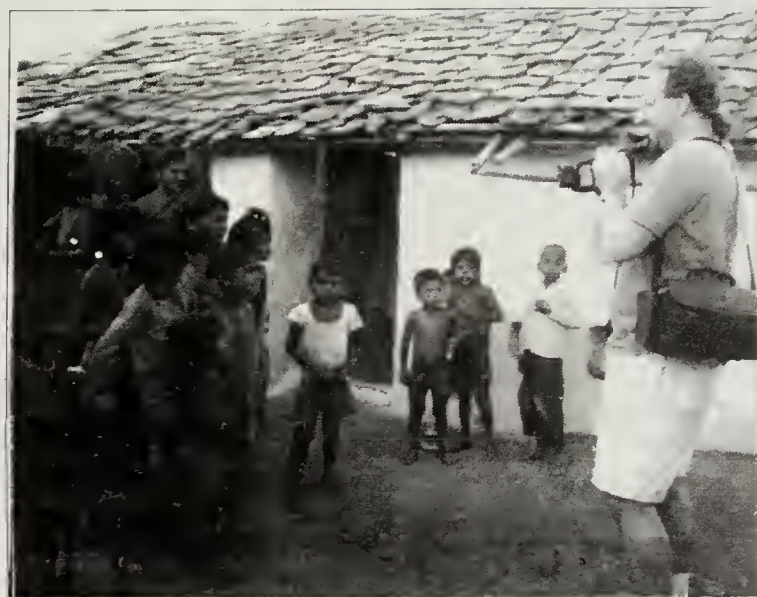


photo courtesy of Piper Hodson

FRED BERGER VIDEOTAPES villagers at Panna National Wildlife preserve.

## Forensics team loses support of College

### Resignation of Coach Maureen Minielli leads to re-evaluation and subsequent disbandment of team

by Heather Hagan & Lisa Phillips

The Forensics Team, a campus organization that consisted of the speech and debate teams, recently lost the support of the Communications Department, resulting in the disbandment of the team.

"Any time any faculty member in any department leaves the College, it is the VPAA's job to ask the members who remain how they want to use the opportunities in a hiring process to shape the department," said David Chattin, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Chattin cited the resignation of the team's coach, Maureen Minielli, as the reason for this re-evaluation of the team. He explained that the Communications Department evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the department and used that information to help move the department in a new direction.

"It was the department's decision, not mine," Chattin stated. "There were rumors that this was about the budget. That is not true."

Speaking on behalf of the Communications Department, Fred Berger said, "If Maureen were still here, we would still have a forensics program." He went on to add that Minielli's resignation forced the department to ask itself if the program was meeting its goals. They decided it was not.

According to Berger, the forensics program was instigated to give communications and theater arts majors an extra curricular activity and also to increase the number of people within those majors. Upon review, it was discovered that the program was not performing these functions, explained Berger.

In answer to this, Minielli - who is now Assistant Professor of Speech Communications at St. Cloud University in Minnesota - stated that it was not made clear to her when she accepted the position that she was responsible for recruiting new students to the department.

"In the five years I was at SJC, I was never told to go out and do outside recruiting beyond the efforts of the Admissions Office," Minielli said. "If I was not told that I would have to go and recruit new initial students, then it cannot be used as a determining factor in eliminating the program. But it was."

The Communications Department came to their decision in April, and presented it to Chattin, who then notified the members of the team. In fact, it was the manner in which the team was eliminated and the actions taken thereafter which so angered Minielli and many of the team's members.

"I am probably more shocked at how the whole situation was handled than by the elimination of the team itself," Minielli said. "For example, not more than 24 hours after finding out, the locks were changed to the forensics office and no one could go in to retrieve personal belongings. We are adults here and to treat us like juvenile criminals was incredibly dis-

respectful and demeaning to myself and to the team."

After taking some time this summer to consider the situation and ponder their next step, members of the team met upon returning to campus in order to make their final decision. There had been talk of continuing the team as a club; however, problems arose finding a sponsor as well as coming up with the money to finance the venture. Ultimately, the team decided to discontinue its efforts and reluctantly accept the ruling of the Communications Department. The decision left many of the team's members saddened by the loss of something that had been such an integral part of their experience at SJC.

"[The team] achieved a closeness that you only get from traveling with people," stated team member Liza Storey. "If any good came out of the situation, I guess it is that it made us realize how close we were as individuals and as a team."

Although the situation is sad and frustrating for the Forensics Team members, they won't be left out in the cold financially. Diane Mickey of the Financial Aid department was reassuring.

"Forensics scholarships will be renewed for this year...and students will definitely have that money for all four years," she stated, adding that there will not, however, be any new forensics scholarships. "They won't have to come up with that money. That wouldn't be fair," said Mickey.



## Puma Gridders Fall In Season Opener

by Matt Stout

The cracking of helmets could be heard all the way to Justin. Yes, the Saint Joseph's College football season is in full swing. The Pumas began their season with a hard fought loss to Great Lakes Football Conference rivals University of Indianapolis.

The final score was 19-10 but the scoreboard does not always explain how the game was really played. The game was within the Pumas' grasp with only two minutes remaining, but the wind was taken out of the sails with an interception thrown by quarterback Jamie Egli.

Coach Tom Riva could not have been more proud of his team. "I'll give our kids credit. There were plenty of opportunities to pack it in on this field today . . . we certainly did not pack it in."

Senior wide receiver Varon Cantrell made his quarterback debut for the Pumas with a touchdown pass, which was completed to Ron Mason finalizing a 12 play drive, which started on the Puma 20-yard line and consumed seven minutes of the second quarter. The touchdown tied the game at 7-7.

Cantrell also had 36 rushing yards while freshman Ron Mason led the receiving unit with 5 catches for 36 yards. Erich Hitzeman also helped the Pumas' scoring efforts with a 28-yard field goal, which rewarded an 8-play drive, which started at the Puma 34 and stole one and a



Senior quarterback Varon Cantrell brings the Pumas to the line.

half minutes from the second half. However, the Pumas were still playing catch up with the score at 14 - 10 in favor of the Greyhounds.

The field goal brought Erich three points closer to the all-time scoring record at Saint Joseph's College. He now needs a mere 14 points by the end of the season.

According to coach Riva, the two-quarterback offense is something the Pumas are going to stick with. The offensive line allowed three sacks for a loss of 29 yards, and will have more expected of them in the weeks to come. "Our line isn't gelled the way we want it to. In training camp I don't think our full line has taken a snap together," coach Riva said. The first touchdown came on a three-yard run by Pendergrass, which ended a five yard drive started with an early interception by Chris Volz at the Puma 41 yard line and returned to the Puma 5. Their second touchdown came on another short run, this time by Lance Riegle, capping a 6 play 77 yard drive

that lasted 4 minutes and was sparked by a 62 yard reception by Gary Griffin.

A safety, which was scored on a 12-yard sack by Neal Blank of Indianapolis, brought the Indy advantage to six points at 16 - 10. A 42-yard field goal by Eric Smith, which was the end to a drive started only 23 seconds earlier on the Puma 26, put the nail in the coffin.

While the offense seemed to struggle for a rhythm all afternoon, only

(Photo by Charles Martin)

amassing 181 yards for the game, the Puma defense kept the game within the grasp of Saint Joe. Leading the way for the defense were Seniors Elbert Henderson, who led all Pumas with 15 tackles and David Ortiz, who seized two interceptions.

With this loss serving as a building block for all facets of the Pumas' game, the team is optimistic for the rest of the season. They look to add a notch in the winning column against the Georgetown (Kentucky) Tigers on September 11 in Rensselaer.

The Pumas fell to 0-2 on the season September 11th, dropping a 33-21 decision to Georgetown at Alumni Stadium. The Observer went to press too early to include coverage of the game. The Pumas will try to get back on track September 18th in the Homecoming game against Malone (OH) College.

## Athletic Shorts

By Clark Teuscher  
Observer Sports Editor

A lot has happened already this fall. Here's a quick roundup of what our athletic teams have been doing in the first few weeks of the school year:

- The men's soccer team has opened its season with a pair of heartbreaking one-goal losses to Rockhurst (2-1) and Missouri-Rolla (4-3). They will head to the University of Indianapolis on September 18<sup>th</sup> to take on the Greyhounds before returning home the next day to square off against Wisconsin-Parkside.

- Women's soccer has opened Camie Bechtold's initial coaching campaign with a 3-1 record, including its third straight Puma Classic title. Sophomore Leslie Hilbert is leading the team with four goals scored. GLVC opponents Indianapolis and Wisconsin-Parkside are also next up on the women's schedule.

- The women's golf team is in full swing, finishing in seventh place in a two-round tournament at Grand Valley State and taking eighth at the University of Southern Indiana. The lady golfers are gearing up for the GLVC Tournament, which takes place September 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Kevin Knaust and Mike Cronkite tied for fourth place at the University of Indianapolis Fall

Invitational, which was the first match of the year for men's golf. Knaust and Cronkite shot 74s on the par-72 course. The Pumas finished tied for sixth as a team and were just ten strokes off Bellarmine College's score of 302, which won the event.

- Coach John Barrientos' Lady Puma tennis team shook off a 9-0 season-opening loss to SIU-Edwardsville by blanking Missouri-St. Louis 7-0. The netters then lost a tight match against Quincy University 5-4. There are two more women's tennis matches in Rensselaer this fall, the last one being September 21<sup>st</sup> against Indianapolis.



## Upcoming SJC Athletic Events

Friday, September 17th

Volleyball vs. SIU-Edwardsville, 7:00pm

Cross Country at Indiana State, 4:00pm

Saturday, September 18th

Homecoming

Women's Tennis vs. Lewis, 10:00am

Football vs. Malone College, noon

Volleyball vs. Indianapolis, 2:00pm

Softball at Bradley Tourney

Men's and Women's Soccer at Indianapolis,

Women- 12:30pm, Men- 3:00pm

Sunday, September 19th

Men's and Women's Soccer vs. Wisconsin-

Parkside, Women- 12:30pm, Men- 3:00pm

Monday, September 20th

Men's Golf at Northern Kentucky, 9:00am

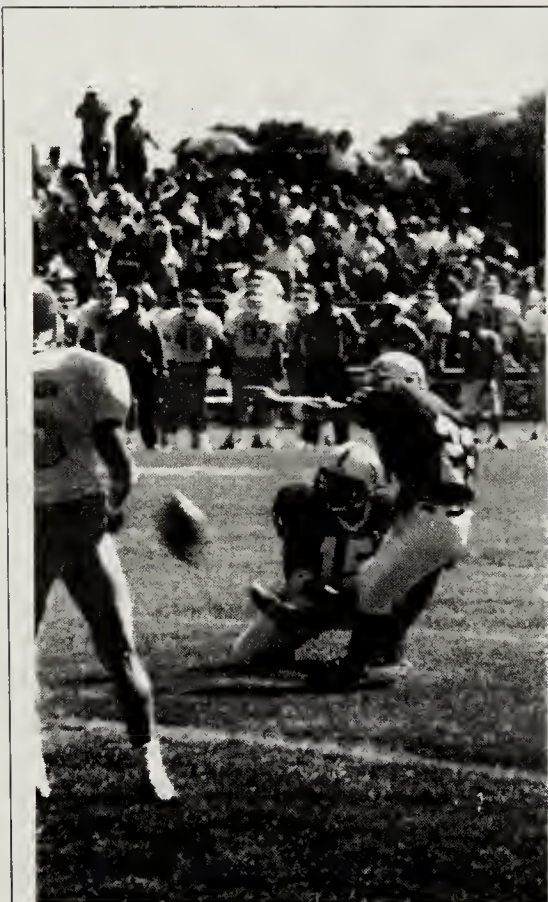
Tuesday, September 21st

Women's Tennis vs. Indianapolis, 3:00pm

Men's Soccer at Indiana Wesleyan, 7:30pm

Volleyball at St. Xavier, 7:00pm

*Erich Hitzeman puts his foot into one to help the Pumas' cause.*  
*photo by Charles Martin*



## Volleyball Home Opener A Success

*By Christine Scafide*

"I believe we're a better team all around this year," said Saint Joseph's women's volleyball coach Kevin Furnish.

This "better team" proved itself this past Tuesday night during the first home game of the season against the Foresters of Huntington College. The Pumas put admirable teamwork and fresh talent on display on their home court and came away with a solid victory, sweeping the visitors in three games.

"We tried to stay specific and point out hitter's tendencies, such as where to be on the court, and to focus on one or two things," said Furnish.

With the coach's advice in mind, the first game was a fairly easy win for the Pumas. Senior outside hitter Kari Puzauskas and junior Katie Carroll carried the bulk of the serving chores and St. Joseph's was victorious 15-7.

In game two, a 15-8 triumph was possible thanks to outstanding net play by outside hitters Jill Ryan and Traci Wall. Ryan and Wall finished the game tied with Carroll for the team lead in kills with five.

The home team was forced to play through a sluggish start to the third and final game. The Pumas lost some momentum but managed to persevere. Sophomore setter Katie Conlon helped to keep the Foresters at bay with some great work serving the ball. Conlon led St. Joseph's with four service aces on the evening.

Freshman outside hitter Jodi Frigo put an

exclamation point on the sweep with a huge kill at the net to cap off third game, which ended with a 15-4 score in the Pumas' favor.

"I believe we passed really well and played good defense," Furnish added. "Having fourteen players is a big key for us this year, compared to our nine players last year."

The Pumas are a deeper team this year. With five new talented freshmen on board, they look towards a very successful season.

"Middle hitter Julie Ryan is a force to be reckoned with in the conference, and with Jill Ryan hitting outside, she's putting a lot of pepper on the ball," Furnish continued, "Also, setter Katie King is running her team for her half... she and Katie Conlon are splitting the offense."

In addition to the victory, St. Joseph's had another reason to celebrate. At the start of the game, the team and coach were awarded for having the second highest grade point average in the nation for the 1998-99 season.

The Puma spikers are now on a four-match win streak. After dropping their first two matches, they have yet to lose a single game in any match since.

Coach Furnish's crew will have a busy Homecoming Weekend, with home matches on Friday against SIU-Edwardsville and Saturday against Indianapolis. Friday's action will start at 7:00pm and things will get underway Saturday at 2:00pm.

## Spring Cleaning

The 1998-99 school year ended with couple of spring sports still in competition. The baseball and track and field squads stayed on campus a few extra weeks and put together some outstanding performances. Here's a quick run-down on what they did:

The baseball team finished up the '99 season with 36 wins, 19 losses and one tie. They won the GLVC Tournament, crushing Indianapolis 19-0 in the championship game. They made yet another trip to the NCAA Division II National Tournament, but were eliminated by Quincy 5-2 in the North Central Regional.

The track and field teams both ended their seasons ranked seventeenth in the nation in the United States Track Coaches Association Division II final poll. This is the sixth straight season

that both teams have been ranked in every single indoor and outdoor track and field poll.

The season was highlighted by Dana Collins' appearance at the Division II National Track and Field Championships in Emporia, Kansas. Collins wound up finishing 15th in the 100 meter hurdles.

Some other Puma tracksters garnered some individual honors as well. Matt Stout broke the SJC school record for the 5000 meter run, completing the race in 15 minutes, 31.68 seconds. Stout finished five seconds under the old record, which had stood for nearly ten years.

Clark Teuscher broke his own record in the 3000 meter steeplechase, running it in 9:53.1. That eclipsed Teuscher's own mark of 9:54.6, which he set in 1998.





At the Movies  
With Don



## Observer Movie Exclusive!

### For Love of the Game Hits an Out-of-the-Park Home Run

Welcome back, Pumas, for another year of "At the Movies with Don." Returning readers know that it's not often that my movie reviews come out in junction with or ahead of a movie's release. So, if I can catch a special sneak preview, I jump on it. Well, the jump I took this past Saturday was well worth it. As a matter of fact, the result turned out to be the best and most well made movie I have seen this year. The movie I am referring to is For Love of the Game starring Kevin Costner and Kelly Preston. I was able to catch the movie on a special Saturday night sneak preview and I am glad I did.

For Love of the Game is a romantic drama that, within the movie, takes place over the time of one nine inning baseball game, but it spans farther than that. During the game, pitcher Billy Chapel (Costner), a forty-year old baseball legend for the Detroit Tigers, reminisces and flashes back to the old days when his parents were alive and he was on a rocky road of love and loss with Jane Aubrey (Preston). Jane is the only woman in his life who truly cared about him and looked past his fame and fortune.

Chapel is on the last rung of his career. His arm is going out. The team just got sold to new ownership and the new management has threatened to trade him away from the only team he has ever

played for. On top of that Jane (Kelly Preston of Jerry Maguire) is leaving him for a new job in London. He walks into Yankee Stadium starting the last game of the season and maybe his career. Aided by his trusty catcher, Gus (the lighthearted John C. Reilly of Days of Thunder and Boogie Nights), a fire lights under Billy. His puts behind his troubles and pitches for all he's got. He does it for Jane.

For Love of the Game is Costner's third major foray into the beloved sport of baseball after Bull Durham and Field of Dreams. This one, in my opinion, turned out to be the best of the three. After this spring's Message in a Bottle, Costner is two-for-two with romantic drama hits this year. Director Sam Raimi, known mostly for his cult favorite Army of Darkness and 1998 Oscar candidate, A Simple Plan, shows new range with this deep romantic drama. Preston, a.k.a. Mrs. John Travolta, turns in a great performance as an openhearted love and mother.

As I said before, and again without hesitation, For Love of the Game is the best movie I have seen this year. It has romance and love. It has the excitement of baseball. It has comedy and tears. The movie simply captivated me. The music (including a well-timed ballad from Garth Brooks) and camerawork framed the story perfectly. The exciting baseball game brings you to cheers after every out. Its love story will touch your heart whether you are, male or female. What struck me the most was the movie's sincerity. The romance is honest. Billy and Jane have passion, enjoyment, fights, and tearful choices to make. I cannot say enough about it. Please, go see this movie. I don't think any of you will be disappointed. For Love of the Game opens on September 17.

#### On the Other Side

My grass has become old and withered.  
The trees in my field are all silent.  
And you who once loved me so sweetly  
Have gone on to seek greener pastures.

By Rhiannon Davis

## The Beginning of a Journey

By Ellen Jones

Three weeks ago I left everything and everyone that was familiar to me and came to St. Joe's. The dramatic changes that occurred in my life made me feel as if I had plunged into an icy cold, unexplored sea and had been immediately swept away into a new and entirely different world. In this new world I was expected to explore and figure out everything for myself. At first, I had no one to rely on and for the first time I was left to my own resources.

My parents had been telling me for years how college is "the best time of your life." They told me about the incredible people I would meet and all of the incredible things there were to learn. They stressed how going to college was going to be my first experience as an adult, being on my own, and making my own decisions. You see, high school was far from the best time of my life. I had a hard time believing that the experiences I had in high school would not follow me for the rest of my life. I believe the book entitled "She's Come Undone" did best what my mother often tried to say. It read, "High school is a disease, the fever breaks, and you get over it." I had a hard time believing that then.

I have been at St. Joe's for three weeks and the fever already seems to have dissipated. While I have been here I have met some incredible people. And yet, even though the sickness that was high school for me has faded, the good times and the incredible people from that time in my life still linger in my mind like summer days.

The people that I grew up with are now gone, scattered across the vast continent of America like leaves blown away in an autumn wind. Sure, I will keep in touch with my friends and see them on vacations from school so we will never lose track of each other. But the other day when I was talking to one of my best friends on the phone she talked about the people that she now hangs out with and their names conjured up no familiar faces in my mind. In a way, I feel that she has moved on from the days when she and I were inseparable. Yet, in another way, I feel that I have left behind her and those days too. I know that when I see her that we will pick right back up where we left off, but I cannot

help but feel that we both have new lives now. And I worry that one day our new lives will completely take over and erase many of the people that were so important in our old lives. I feel that everything is changing fast, and that I am powerless to do anything except hang on and go with the flow.

A while ago one of my friends died. In a way, I felt that he had moved on and left me behind to do everything by myself. All I wanted him to do was to come back and help me along or to drop everything and catch up with him. But as I grieved I realized that although he had moved on, he was still in my life and in my thoughts. And I think that he will always be there if I am careful not to let his moonlit memory be outshone by the sun of the living. That is not to say that I will not live, but I will occasionally stop and reflect on his memory and my past, and that is what I hope will happen as my friends and I gain new and separate lives. I hope that occasionally we will stop and remember the people from our past and catch up with them.

I hope to blossom while I am in college and to have all of the fun I can have, meet all of the people that I can meet, and to learn all that I can learn. But sometimes I will return to my roots and remember exactly where it was that I began and remember all of the people that I knew as I began my journey into the new, uncharted regions of college life.

#### Loss~

i stand alone by myself,  
staring into emotional distress,  
trying to fill all my emptiness.  
of all who remain  
must be disdain.  
i fall to the ground in pain.  
as i clench my fist in vain,  
seeing blood trickle to the ground.  
this is quite profound;  
just to be bound  
by anything so fond,  
that i have felt a loss.

By Timothy Hayes